

MEDIA RELEASE

SBA SOUTH CAROLINA DISTRICT OFFICE

Release Date: 03/27/2008

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SBDC at USC-Aiken wins first-ever SBA Small Business Development Center award.

AIKEN, S.C. – The Aiken Small Development Center (SBDC), located at the USC-Aiken campus, has received the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2008 Small Business Development Center Excellence & Service Innovation award. This is the first year the award has been given. The Aiken SBDC was nominated by W. Lawrence Brown, Esq.

The Aiken Small Development Center (SBDC) has consistently exceeded its performance milestones. With only one consultant and an excellent part-time staffer, they have helped more than 2,050 individuals over last five years. Through one-on-one counseling and workshops, the office's efforts with entrepreneurs have created or saved nearly 200 jobs and created \$12,083,150.00 worth of capital formation.

Reka Ferencz Mosteller, IMBA, MA, EDFP, Area Manager of the Aiken SBDC is the office director and consultant. Mosteller has been educated in Europe and America, bringing a unique multi-cultural, cross-disciplinary approach to her work. Since 2003, she has been ably assisted by Mary Zamiska, a Certified Professional Secretary (CPS), who has more than 25 years of experience in the business world.

The Aiken SBDC uses the latest technology and research and forms strategic alliances with government agencies and private industry to give its clients every possible advantage. In her capacity as Area Manager, Mosteller has created and presented innovative workshops on a wide range of business topics, in addition to providing in-depth customized business counseling.

The Aiken SBDC has made invaluable contributions to South Carolina small businesses, and the Center's productivity, professionalism and dedication to entrepreneurship have been noted by the community, by clients, by SBDC staff members, by the media and by many others who have worked with the Aiken SBDC.

The Aiken SBDC will be honored at the SBA South Carolina District Office's Small Business Awards ceremony during the 5th Annual Salute to Small Business on Tuesday, April 1, at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.

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